

# Indiana State Sentinel.

GENERAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.  
WILLIAM J. BROWN, Editor.  
INDIANAPOLIS, JULY 4, 1850.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
WASHINGTON, June 26th, 1850.

Herewith I send for publication a copy of the bill which passed the House on yesterday, granting bounty lands to certain soldiers. It met with the most determined opposition, but after a struggle of five days it passed by a vote of 155 to 36. I do not like the features of the bill. Its provisions do not extend to the heirs of soldiers who have died, but only to the survivors and their widows.

The public lands it alleged are pledged to the payment of the national debt, created by the Mexican war, and many of our friends were alarmed at the idea of increasing the amount of land, to be thus absorbed, and it was therefore determined to confine the bounty to the survivors and their widows.

I hope the Senate will amend it. If they do not, and pass it in its present shape, it will, at any rate, grant relief to a very large class of our most worthy and meritorious citizens.

W. J. BROWN.  
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That each of the surviving commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians, or privates, whether of regulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who performed military service in any regiment, company, or detachment in the service of the United States in the war with Great Britain, declared by the United States on the 18th day of June, 1812, or in any of the Indian wars since 1790, and each of the commissioned officers who were engaged in the military service of the United States in the late war with Mexico, shall be entitled, for twelve months service, to one hundred and sixty acres of land, for six months service to eighty acres of land, and for three months service to forty acres of land: Provided, That the person so having been in service shall not receive said land, or any part thereof, if it shall appear by the muster-roll of his regiment or corps, that he deserted or was dishonorably discharged from service, or if he has received, or is entitled to, any land bounty under any act of Congress heretofore passed.

Sec. 2. That each commissioned and non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, for whom provision is made by the first section hereof, shall receive a certificate or warrant from the Department of the Interior for the quantity of land to which he may be entitled, and which may be located by the warrantee, or his heirs-at-law, at any land office of the United States, in one body, and in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, upon any of the public lands in such district then subject to private entry; and upon the return of such certificate or warrant, with evidence of the location thereof having been legally made, to the General Land Office, a patent shall be issued therefor. In the event of the death of such commissioned or non-commissioned officer, musician or private, prior or subsequent to the passage of this act, who shall have served as aforesaid, and who shall not have received bounty land for said services, a like certificate or warrant shall be issued in favor and inure to the benefit of his widow, provided she was married to such officer before the conclusion of his service, and is unmarried at the date of her application: Provided, further, That no land warrant, issued under the provisions of this act, shall be laid upon any land of the United States to which there is a pre-emption right, or upon which there shall be an actual settlement and cultivation, except with the consent of such settler, to be satisfactorily proved to the proper land office.

Sec. 3. That all sales, mortgages, letters of attorney, or other instruments of title, going to affect the title or claim to any warrant or certificate herein provided for, made or executed prior to the issue of such warrant or certificate, shall be null and void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever; nor shall such certificate or warrant, or the land obtained thereby, be in anywise affected by or charged with or subject to the payment of any debt or claim incurred by such officer or soldier prior to the issuing of the patent: Provided, That the benefit of this act shall not accrue to any person who is a member of the present Congress.

**Democratic Platform on Slavery.**  
Resolved, That Congress has no power, under the Constitution, to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the sole and proper judges of every thing pertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the abolitionists or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with the question of slavery, or to take ineffectual steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences, and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people, and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions.

The above resolution was adopted by the National Democratic Convention, which nominated Mr. Van Buren. It was there fully endorsed by the democracy, both north and south. It was re-adopted by the Democratic Conventions in 1844 and '49, and the only resolution, on that subject, ever adopted by a National Democratic Convention; and every democrat who voted for Van Buren, Polk or Cass endorsed its sentiments by his vote. It is our political landmark on that question, and if we steer by it, we shall at least have no division among ourselves. That the whigs should divide and split into finders, is a matter not to be wondered at. There has never been unity of sentiment enough among them to adopt any resolution. They have succeeded, as Col. Benton says, by riding on both sides of the sapling.

We publish the resolution at this time, when clouds rest upon the political horizon, when the stars are obscured by the mists of prejudice and education, as a sort of beacon light which will keep us off the rocks and breakers. It was originally drawn up by that pure patriot and enlightened statesman, Silas Wright, of New York. It had the concurrence of Mr. Van Buren, Gen. Jackson, Col. Benton, Judge Woodbury, and the leading men of the party, and has since been adopted at every succeeding Convention, without a dissenting voice.

—We learn from the Madison Courier that the Magnolia Mills in that city are offering \$1.00 for new wheat.

## From Our Washington Correspondent.

WASHINGTON City, June 23, 1850.  
The Senate, after four days' hard struggle this week, were unable to come to any vote on the compromise bill. The weather is excessively hot, and they were compelled to adjourn over two days to have the Chamber cleaned and put in summer dress.  
There seems to be a determination on the part of a majority to sit it out next week. By sitting it out, I mean not adjourn until the bill is either defeated or passed. This is the only mode known to the practice of the Senate, of forcing a vote. They have no such a thing as the previous question; and, under their rules, as long as a Senator chooses to talk no vote can be taken. In this manner two or three refractory Senators sometimes keep the whole body at bay for several days.

On Monday Mr. Soule, of Louisiana, will move the Missouri compromise. He is an able man, and a most eloquent and forcible speaker. He is a native of France, and does not speak the English language well; but is nevertheless very interesting.

The Missouri compromise seems now to be the southern ultimatum. It cannot now be adopted, without severing California. California will not come in, if, as a condition, she is shorn of her southern borders. The south have heretofore opposed this or any other line. They claimed all of California and Oregon too. Two years ago the north would have accepted this line; now they are committed against it, the south generously offer it. The compromise bill of the committee of 13 does not please either the north or the south; but, I presume it is the best that can be done. An honest old country magistrate once said, that in administering justice amongst his neighbors, for twenty years, he was not certain that he ever gave a righteous judgment but once, and that was when both the parties were dissatisfied. I think Mr. Clay and the committee may say the same of their bill. The ultras at the south say that it is no compromise, because the north gets all. The fanatics at the north say they are walled to the south.

In the House an effort has been made, so far without success, to pass the bill giving bounty lands to the soldiers of the war of 1812. There is now great danger that the bill will be defeated. It is made like every thing else, a party question—the democrats for it, and the whigs generally against it; some by direct opposition, and others by voting on all sorts of amendments to weaken and defeat it. If the bill had only included three months soldiers and those for a longer period, it could have been passed; but, as it now stands, it includes sea-fencibles and minute men, and those who served one day in any war. The old fellows about Washington who went out to Bladenburgh in the morning and ran away before night, would be entitled to the same bounty as the heroes of Tippecanoe, the Thames or New Orleans—and unless there can be some restriction to confine the bounty of the government to actual soldiers who performed some service, the bill, if passed, would absorb the whole of the public lands and open a wide door for fraud and speculation. I see by the Union of this morning that, there is a call for the friends of the measure to meet at the Capitol this evening. I hope they will come to some understanding, and act in concert. If they do, the measure may yet be saved. In its present shape it will and ought to be defeated. The Indiana delegation have been active in their exertions to procure its passage. Your Representative left a sick bed where he had been confined for some time, to vote on the bill.

The free soilers, holding the balance of power in the Connecticut Legislature, have defeated the election of a United States Senator. They were elected by Democratic votes; but refused to vote for Governor Tuomey because he had been a member of Mr. Polk's Cabinet, and had been in favor of prosecuting the Mexican war. They refused to vote for Loren P. Waldo, one of the best men in the State, because he had voted for Cass; and, as a member of the present Congress, had voted for the regular democratic nominees for Speaker and Clerk, although he was known to be in favor of the Wilmot Proviso. They required that 99 democrats, good and true, must yield to 14 free soilers and vote for a Van Buren Buffalo platform man, or they would defeat the election and throw it into the hands of the whigs next year. So much for that faction. Democrats of Indiana, beware of the rock.

Colonel Benton received a splendid present from Old Dr. Jacob Townsend, in the way of two boxes of his "Sarsaparilla," for his speech, in which the Col. makes such a witty and sarcastic allusion to this celebrated nostrum.

XAVIER.

## The Tariff.

The whigs of Pennsylvania, who are at least half a century behind the age, are still clamoring for protection. They must have an increased and specific duty on iron—duty levied not to produce a revenue from the importation of the foreign article, but to tax it so high, that its importation must necessarily be decreased, and thereby give to the manufacturer of the domestic article, a wider market and higher price. That owing to a variety of causes, among which may be the present tariff, the iron interest is somewhat depressed, is not to be denied. To make up this deficiency, in the profits of the iron master, is the farmer, and indeed all other trades or professions, to be taxed? This is the practical effect of the operation of high duties. The farmer's wheat crop in the West, was last year blighted with the rust. Who made good his losses? Where there is one taxpayer in the United States, engaged in the manufacture of iron, there are nine hundred and ninety-nine engaged in other avocations. Should this last named class all be taxed for the benefit of the one?

The same argument will apply to the salt, sugar, cotton and woolen manufacturing interest that claim protection. In giving protection to these various interests, the great agricultural branch of industry, in the west, is taxed, and continually taxed, without any corresponding benefits. If the Pennsylvania cannot compete with the foreign manufacturer, let him come to the West and cultivate our broad acres of fertile land. We will give him a hearty welcome; he shall have a home, and shall be placed on an equal footing with us, but let him not ask us to put money in his purse, because the price of iron is low. It is no great injury to our farmers who buy this article of necessity at a reduced price. Our rail road companies do not complain, because they can buy the English iron at 40 dollars a ton, when under the old high protection system, they would have had to pay from 60 to 80 dollars for the same. Yet President Taylor and his Cabinet feel bound to do something for Pennsylvania. The Old Keystone changed the result in the last Presidential election, and they recommend an increased protection on iron, and Mr. Meredith, the Secretary of the Treasury, is determined, from his Galphim payments and wasteful expenditures, to create the necessity for more revenue.

TEMPERANCE LEVER.—The Daughters of Temperance of this city will hold a levee tomorrow evening, at the new Masonic Hall.

All are invited to attend. Mr. FRANKLIN and his class will furnish music, instrumental and vocal.

Doors open at 8 o'clock. Admittance 25 cents.

—The steeple of the First Baptist Church in this city was blown off and destroyed by the wind in a storm on yesterday afternoon.

## The Convention.

We learn, from different portions of the State, that the candidates for Delegates to the Convention, which is to convene in October next, for the purpose of altering and amending our State Constitution, are canvassing the State with much spirit; but there appears to be a non-commitment, on the part of the Whig candidates especially, that should induce every good citizen at least to look well over the whole ground, before he casts his vote.

The Democratic party in our country, as well as in all others, is decidedly the party of progress. All the useful reforms in government have originated with that party. To go no farther back than the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, we find a struggle, even in this glorious land of liberty, for popular rights. The federalists of that day, from whom the Whigs of the present descended, were in favor of a strong government—the election of a President and Senate for life—the appointment of the Governors of the States by the President, &c. This was opposed by the Democrats, headed by Jefferson, and to this point we can clearly trace the origin of the two great political parties of the present day in our country. It is true, that the Whigs have been called by different names—Federalists, National Republicans, &c.,—but still they have no difficulty in tracing their regular succession down, in an unbroken line, from Hamilton and the elder Adams.

A few years ago, when Democracy in her progressive march, determined to confer more power upon the people in the election of officers—taking in even the Judiciary as proper to be elected by the people, the Whigs, as a party stood back in amazement—declaring that we were sapping the great citadel of the Constitution—that life and property would be unsafe were we to throw open the election of our Judges to the populace—had men would be elected, dependant on the multitude for their elections, and the wheels of justice would be clogged. The very argument, that induced Mr. Hamilton and his coadjutors to go for a President and Senate for life was again urged—they were afraid to trust the people. The principle, however, has triumphed. Democratic Conventions were held to form and amend State Constitutions; Judges, for several years past, have been elected by the people. The result has been that better men have been selected, because the people, who elected their judges, were all interested in the proper administration of the laws.

Democratic truth was vindicated, in the safety of conferring power on the people to elect their own officers, and the whig members of our last Legislature were foolish enough to think, that they could palm off this Democratic reform as good Whig doctrine.

The election of Judges is now a foregone conclusion; but we see that it has been brought about under the spirit of Democratic progress.

The Democratic party, unlike the Whigs, are jealous of conferring too much power on their Representatives. By the exercise of too much power, by Legislative bodies, many of the States of this Union have been brought to the very verge of ruin. In the late Conventions, where Democrats have invariably held the ascendancy, the power to do evil has been limited, and that power will be limited, we have no doubt, in our amended Constitution. No State loan will hereafter be suffered to be contracted, without the people first authorizing or passing upon it at the polls.

With regard to the Banking system—a system of exclusive privileges to the few—the same jealous guardianship should be exercised. On this question, the lines of Democracy and Whiggery are plainly marked. The great battle of reform in Banking has been fought mainly by Democrats. It was a Democratic President that put down that old and corrupt monster, the United States Bank. It was Democrats, by the force of legislation, that compelled the State Banks to resume specie payments; and whenever there has been a great Bank struggle, we have invariably beheld Whiggery for the Banks and Democracy for the people. We speak now of the two great parties—not of isolated individuals. Many Democrats, even in Indiana, are interested in Banking, and private interest may operate upon a democrat as well as a whig. But if we must have Banking in Indiana, there is the greatest necessity for a Democratic majority in the Convention, in order that guards should be thrown around it; because, the whole Bank question will be thrown open before that body.

On ordinary occasions, when a man, appearing before the people as a candidate, makes pledges, we are disposed to confide in him; but on the question of Banking, there will be great room for dodging. No digested system is before the people. Individual and often crude notions are advanced, in order, in too many instances we fear, to catch the popular breeze. When the Convention meets, a great outline is to be adopted. Candidates are now discussing many points that will not come before them in the Convention, in order to throw dust in the eyes of the people. The clause relative to Banking, if one is inserted in the Constitution, must necessarily be brief; and may be something which has purposely escaped the attention of the candidate, who has been discussing details, instead of general principles.

A Whig candidate on the Wabash—a man who once worshipped at no other shrine but that of a United States Bank, in a closely-contested county, is now preaching long and loud, in favor of prohibiting the circulation of all bills under the denomination of twenty dollars,—is in favor of individual liability,—is loud in deprecating party in the election of Delegates, and hopes to get a great many Democratic votes. But that man's legislative career shows that a more decided whig partisan never legislated in the walls of our State House. He never voted for a democrat, and being an oily, plausible, pleasant little gentleman, with all the marks of candor written upon his countenance, he was generally selected to work the wires, whenever any great party movement was to be made; and should he be elected, we expect to find him at his old vocation, and we should dread his power.

A candidate, not a hundred miles from Indianapolis, is operating on a smaller scale, by exhibiting a gold dollar, in the course of his speeches, and speaking long and loud in favor of the California currency! The same man who in 1840 was the loudest to denounce the sub-treasury, and hard money currency, as he called it. "This cry was," "Give us a bank to make money plenty!" Now California is his bank; although he was greatly opposed to its acquisition. He takes great pains, however, not to make the pledge, in a square-up, unqualified manner, that he will vote for no provision in the Constitution, tolerating any Bank! If he were to do this, there would be some sense in his arguments.

It is this beating around the bush that we intend to warn the people against. We are gratified with the assurance, that many very able Democratic minds will be in the Convention, capable of reflecting the will of the people in a proper form. We invite our readers to look at the past. It will be found that there is safety in trusting our Constitution into the hands of a Democratic majority. We are pleased also to know that there will be some intelligent Whigs in the Convention, who are able to discuss the great questions that will come before them. What we wish to convey to our readers is this: Democracy is right, when its principles are carried out; and there is no safety in a whig majority in our Convention, if we wish to

secure a good Democratic Constitution, worthy of the age, and of the Democratic State of Indiana.

We shall resume the subject again. We have only glanced at a few of the prominent subjects now being discussed before the people. They are worthy of serious reflection.

## Free-soilers sold out to the Administration.

The editor of the Lafayette Journal is determined to retain the Post office printing, if he loses every free-soil subscriber to accomplish the object. Hear him:

"It may not be supererogatory to state, for the edification of our Whig friends remote from the seat of publication, that, on the accession of the present proprietor, the original position of the Journal, as a thorough, radical Whig print, has been sedulously maintained; and the *free-soilism*, which marked its course by the previous conductors, discarded."

He continues his objections to Mr. Whitcomb for voting for the Wilmot proviso, and says:

What we choose to say about Whitcomb, we say to please ourselves, and to do justice to a betrayed body of men, who in an evil hour, yielded him their reluctant support to a place, which, like every other he has ever filled, has been marked by tergiversation and turpitude.

Burns may now as well hang up his fiddle; the man of the corn colored vest will retain the printing for the Post Office! Only think of it—the free-soilers of old Tippecanoe, numbering some 200 or more of the old Whig party, sold out for \$15.00!

We invite the attention of the Indiana State Journal, Lafayette Journal and several other whig prints of a kindred character, to the following article from the Grant county "Whig Thermometer." The editors must certainly blush for their own course when they witness the manliness of the Thermometer towards political opponents. Read the editor and see if you cannot profit by a good example:

"It will be recollected that we wrote an article in last week's paper, in which it was shown that Mr. Whitcomb's course and votes in the Senate were not in strict accordance with the instructions given him by the Legislature, nor with his former pledges to his constituents. At this time it is a pleasure to us to be able to say, since having examined some of the recent votes in the Senate, that not only Mr. Whitcomb but our other Senator, Mr. Bright, has given evidence of a willingness to obey the instructions of the Legislature. On a motion declaring that the Mexican laws prohibiting slavery shall be and remain in force in the Territories until altered or repealed by Congress, we find the names of Whitcomb and Bright recorded in the affirmative with Messrs. Chase, Hale and Seward."

The editor of the State Sentinel says the Democratic party were never in favor of the Wilmot Proviso. Just what we have said for the last four years.—*Richmond Palladium.*

How dare you say any thing on the subject, belonging, as you do, to a party which, at the Philadelphia "Slaughter House" Convention, when the Wilmot Proviso was proposed, kicked it under the table! Has the Whig party yet any opinion, with regard to the Wilmot Proviso? We defy this pretended Wilmot Proviso editor to show it. We have not only said, but have known for the last four years, that the Whig party had no principles. The President, by non-action, has practically defeated the proviso, and friend Holloway is bound to say amen to it.

## California.

We have received the San Francisco Alta California of the 11th of May, which is filled with an account of the fire which took place in that city on the 4th of the same month. The editor says—

"If we take into consideration the great extent of property destroyed, covering an area more than three times as large as that of the December fire, we do not think the estimated loss of four millions of dollars is exaggerated."

The effects of the conflagration, it is said, will fall heavily upon the city at the present time, and probably produce a temporary depression in business. A reward of \$10,000 was offered by the Mayor for the detection of the incendiaries. Building had already commenced in the burnt district and was progressing with great rapidity. The building of the Alta California was consumed but the printing materials saved.

PLANK ROADS.—In reference to plank roads, the editor of the *Lagro Eagle* of the 26th ult. says—of their utility we cannot speak; but that they are beginning to be introduced in this portion of the State with success and profit. The *Lagro* and *Marion* roads is rapidly progressing, under the direction of our energetic friend, Judge Barlow. It will be pushed forward as fast as possible; during the two coming months five miles will be finished and probably ten miles this fall. It will be completed next season. The advantages to be derived from this project are evident to all, benefiting equally farmers and the travelling public.

We are glad to learn that the Logansport and Indianapolis road, under the superintendence of Judge Wright, has been carried on vigorously during the present season.

RANDOLPH, JAY AND BLACKFORD.—The Democratic Convention of the counties of Randolph, Jay and Blackford, has nominated the Hon. Jeremiah Smith as a candidate for Senatorial Delegate. The Winchester Patriot says—

"As to Judge Smith's qualifications we have not a word to say, he is a man of respectable talent, and untiring industry, but he is a radical democrat, and we are as radically whig, and therefore it is hardly likely that we shall give our support to the Judge."

We hope our Hancock county friends will read the above, as well as the Banner man in Jefferson, who has been copying our admissions to Democrats. He will find the whigs are sufficiently proscriptive, so far, at least, as the leaders are concerned, without his everlasting promptings. The people, however, with a Democratic Constitution, and many men, still voting with the whig party, when they seriously consider that they are, in this instance, acting for posterity, will pause before they reject a well qualified democrat, under the party drill. We advise our friends to vote a full ticket, because we want a good Democratic Constitution; and we believe the people of Indiana, at the August election, will say amen to our advice. The only objection, it will be perceived the Patriot has to Judge Smith is, that he is a radical democrat. We like the Judge all the better for this qualification—for his radicalism consists in a full belief of the ability of the people to govern themselves, without a dictator. We set the Judge down as a member of the Convention.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY.—The Democratic Convention of St. Joseph county has nominated Albert G. Devault as a candidate for Delegate to the Convention, and A. A. Whitlock for Representative. Mr. Whitney was nominated by the whigs for Representative has declined running.

PORTER AND LAKE COUNTIES.—The Democratic Convention of Porter and Lake counties on the 22d ult. nominated A. M. TURNER for Representative Delegate to the Convention and WILLIAM M. HARRISON for Representative.

The *Vevey Palladium* of the 29th ult. says—the steamer *Hosier* State, to take the place of the *Madison Belle* in the packet line, was launched from Hazen's ship yard in Cincinnati on Saturday last. Her model is represented as a beautiful one, and the general opinion is that Capt. James will have a fast boat.

## Bounty Land Bill.

We continue, in a condensed form, the speeches of several members from Indiana, on this interesting subject—the press upon our columns rendering it out of our power to publish the full debate.

THURSDAY, June 20.

Mr. DUNHAM said: Mr. Chairman, I am in favor of this amendment. I can see no reason for making a distinction between those soldiers who served as drafted men and those who served as volunteers, in the liberality of the Government. What matters how they came into the service of the country, so they got into it and did their duty faithfully? Volunteers and militia stood side by side upon the battle field; together mingled their blood, and now, side by side, their bodies lie smouldering where they together fell in defence of their country. Then let us deal equally with those who survive, and with the posterity of those who perished. Sir, I am in favor of the passage of this bill; first, because the people, to whom these lands belong, desire this disposition to be made of them. They feel grateful to those venerable men, and desire to pay to them this slight tribute of their gratitude and respect. I do not feel disposed to thwart their wishes. I, their servant, will not by any action of mine indicate that I do not believe they know how to dispose of their own. If they never show less wisdom and goodness than this wish of theirs, we need not fear for the harmony and prosperity of the country. I am for this bill because I believe that justice requires its passage. The bounties of the Government have been bestowed with a liberal hand upon officers who were no more deserving than they—to the soldiers of the Mexican war, to whom we gave lands, no more, any, nor as much as the deserving, no more than I would have cheerfully voted for had I then been here. Did they, brave though they were, though they endured much—did they show any more bravery, did they endure more perils and sufferings and deprivations, than did those men who fought on your northern and western frontiers, at New Orleans, and who defended your eastern coast? No, sir; and in no respect not as much, for they felt no anxious fear for the left behind them. When they did farewell to their homes and families, they did so with the pleasing reflection that they left them under the sheltering arm of a government able and willing to protect them—surrounded by friends who would provide for their wants and succor them in distress. But how was it with those who served in those border wars? They parted from those they loved with aching hearts, with the melancholy foreboding that it was a last farewell; that when they returned they should find their humble cabins heaped of smouldering ruins, their wives and little ones scalped and tomahawked by the blood-thirsty marauding savages; and too often did their forebodings prove realities. Then why withhold this pittance from these brave men? Why make a distinction between those who served their country with equal fidelity and patriotism? Why are we told, that if we thus give away these lands we shall diminish our revenues; that we shall be driven to direct taxation, to keep the Government in motion. Suppose this to be true: Is that any reason why we should not do justice to the men who defended our cradles? But, sir, it will not. It will increase the revenues. I do not believe in this policy of our Government, in handing up these wild lands like some heartless speculator, whilst thousands of our citizens are without homesteads. I would give a quarter section to every citizen who has no farm of his own, who would go upon it and cultivate it, and make a home for himself and family. Sir, this is the way to make true, independent republicans. A man feels more like a man, more like a freeman when he owns the little spot of earth upon which he draws his sustenance: that the roof, humble though it be, which shelters himself and his little ones from the storms of heaven, he holds not at the will of some petty landlord. Instead of diminishing the revenues, it would increase them. You would change those vast, unproductive prairies and forests into fruitful fields. You would increase the wealth, and what is of much more importance, the happiness of the country. You would greatly increase the ability to purchase and enjoy the comforts and luxuries of life, and hence, also, increase the demand for them. This would increase the commerce, and consequently the revenues of the country. This increase would soon far overbalance the diminution of the proceeds of the sales of these lands. This bill, so far as it goes, will produce the same effect. And who are these gentlemen who are so afraid of begging the Treasury by this grant of land to the men who, when we were children, defended them with their valor? Some of them are men who, but a few years ago, voted to distribute all these lands among the States—who, this session, have voted for every extravagant measure that has been before this House, who, but a few days since, voted five thousand dollars to build a public green-house, thousands of dollars to be wasted in ornamenting these public grounds—thousands of dollars to make improvements for this city, the very kind of improvements which the cities and towns of their own districts make by taxing themselves—who have heretofore voted hundreds of thousands to carry on immense systems of internal improvements. All these things they have gulped down, without an effort; but now, when it is proposed to grant a few thousands of acres of land to the old soldiers who succored their country in the dark hours of her adversity, they are at once seized with a perfect mania of economy. They are horror-stricken at such reckless extravagance. I hope this disposition to economize is real. I hope it will continue, for it will save much to the Treasury; but I think its display might have commenced upon some more appropriate object.

But, sir, are we told that much of this land will find its way into the hands of speculators? No doubt of it, sir; but what of that? Is this any reason why we shall not do justice to a meritorious class of our citizens? I apprehend that speculators cannot get them without paying something to the immediate recipients of this bounty. These men, many of them, are still living. They are scattered all over this country, from one side of it to the other. They are trembling upon the very verge of the grave. Many of them are in poverty, with constitutions shattered, broken perhaps in this very service of their country; they need this provision to support them in their declining years. And shall we be told they must not have it for fear, in doing justice to them, speculators may possibly also be benefited? That those who would receive and appropriate these lands to their own use and comfort, and their old age, shall not have them for fear that others may be less prudent, and may, by their own acts, thwart our efforts to do them good—Sir, this is a sort of reasoning, a kind of moral effect, I do not understand; nor do I desire to. We are told they rendered their services under a contract, and that they have been fully paid according to that contract; that the purchase money of their land has been paid them, and that they ought not to receive any more; that six or seven dollars a month is a sufficient compensation for all their valor, for all their hardship, for the lives of those who left their bones to bleach upon the fields they won. Shame upon such an argument as this. It is unworthy a great and generous people, and will, I assure gentlemen, find no response in their bosom, unless it be that of their indignation for those who urge it. Sir, there is not a gentleman upon this floor who does not stand up and directly avow that they have ever been paid the value of their services; there is not a citizen in the country who will do it, who thinks it. Then the question recurs, did the Government comply with its part of the contract under which these services were performed, so that they are estopped from recurring to the value of services rendered? Did it? The history of the country proves the contrary. The files of this House, where there are yet claims of thousands of dollars for their clothing and provisions furnished by individuals to keep our armies from starving, also show the contrary. Go and examine the files of the Committee on Claims, of which I have the honor to be a member, and you will find there large claims, yet unpaid, of men who advanced these things to the soldiers at Pittsburgh, to keep them from being driven by necessity to leave the service when the Government could neither pay nor clothe them. Then talk not to me or to them about a contract, when the Government utterly failed to comply with its part of it.

I repeat, sir, this bill ought to pass. This tribute, I care not whether of our justice or our gratitude to these care-worn and laurel-crowned soldiers, should at least be made before the lapse of time which we have delayed it so long, and not an excuse for now withholding it. We have no time to delay. Whilst we yet deliberate they are passing away. Let them not get down to their graves with their hearts wrung

with our ingratitude, but let their last days be cheered with this evidence, that their valor and patriotism is properly appreciated by their grateful countrymen.

DEBATE FURTHER CONTINUED.

Mr. GORMAN said: Mr. Chairman, I renew this amendment, in reply to the friends of the bill, that these provisions to include everybody, both soldiers and volunteers. It is nearly dead now—you have already nearly destroyed it.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Evans) boldly proclaimed his settled opposition to it, and he is too candid to say that he offers this amendment for any other purpose than to destroy it; his speech was intended as a funeral sermon over its already mutilated corpse. He said he would vote to all that the moment you altered the bill from what it was when it came from the committee, you gave it a serious wound. Gentlemen must have observed that the enemies of the bill vote for any amendment to keep it from passing, and the soldiers of the war with Great Britain to have this bounty land, vote against any and all amendments that are proposed. The committee gave it full consideration, and decided to give eighty acres to all six months men, one hundred and sixty acres to all twelve months men. This will be following precedent and to give it for a less period of service, will be departing from former precedent. I have been devoting myself most ardently to get this bill passed, and I would, with all my heart, give forty acres to all soldiers who served their country less, and were, during that time, in any battle, but all the members on this day know, that to bring the service below three months, and give every man forty, or eighty, or one hundred and sixty acres of land, who were only three months men, would be a mockery, and served from five to thirty, forty, or fifty days, during which time they possibly never saw an enemy, is to war with Great Britain, were called into service three hundred and eighty-two thousand militia and volunteers, and that two hundred and fifty thousand of that number were more temporary soldiers, called out and stationed along the sea-board, in most instances for a few days, or one or two months? Many of whom were at home, and at their work on their farms, and in their shops, merely holding themselves in readiness, if they should be needed.

Those who are ardently and honestly wishing the passage of this bill, should vote every amendment to the bill, and keep it as a prudent, careful, and well-informed committee thought it best. I would not give a bounty to every soldier who served his country for but one day; but you must limit the time to some reasonable period of actual service, or you cannot get this bill passed through this House.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Vinton) said that by voting for these amendments he did not deliberately intend to oppose, defeat, or destroy the bill.

Mr. VINTON said, if the gentleman will permit me I will state my motive. The bill entirely destroys our land system—I therefore oppose it.

Mr. Gorman continued: The gentleman from Ohio, and a large majority of his Whig friends, have opposed the bill from the start. But I desire to say a word more: The original bill proposed to give a bounty land to the six, twelve and eighteen months militia and volunteers. If left in that form, it will pass; if reduced to five, ten, twenty, thirty, or sixty days, service, it will not pass, as every member now can plainly see. If the bill is reduced to five days, it will provide for about twenty-two thousand men, and their children and no more. I desire the committee to remember that my honorable friend from Connecticut (Mr. Waldo) and myself, as members of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, had fully investigated this matter, and searched up every law that has been passed on the subject of bounty lands to soldiers; and we found that all soldiers who were mustered into the regular army, and who were mustered into this bounty and extra pay; and all who were mustered into the service for during the war, got it likewise. So that, if we leave the bill as the committee framed it, you provide for all the six, twelve, and eighteen months men.

I am fully aware, that some of the very warm friends of the bill have proposed to amend, by allowing all who served only one day, to come in for this bounty. I know their good intentions; but the past history of bills of this kind is full of admissions to its friends to keep off all amendments. And, sir, if it needs amendments, let it go to the Senate; and they, having more time and less confusion, can, and will throw around it all proper guards.

## Speech of Hon. John L. Robinson.

We find the following five minutes speech of Mr. R., reported in the Washington Globe.

Mr. Robinson renewed the amendment. He said that Congress had now been in session more than six months, the ordinary length of a long session, yet it had done absolutely nothing to settle the long